



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Early Childhood Health

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Bridging the Gap in Early Childhood Health



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What Do We
Want for
Children and
Their Families?

Where Are
We Now?

A Closer Look at Early Childhood Health

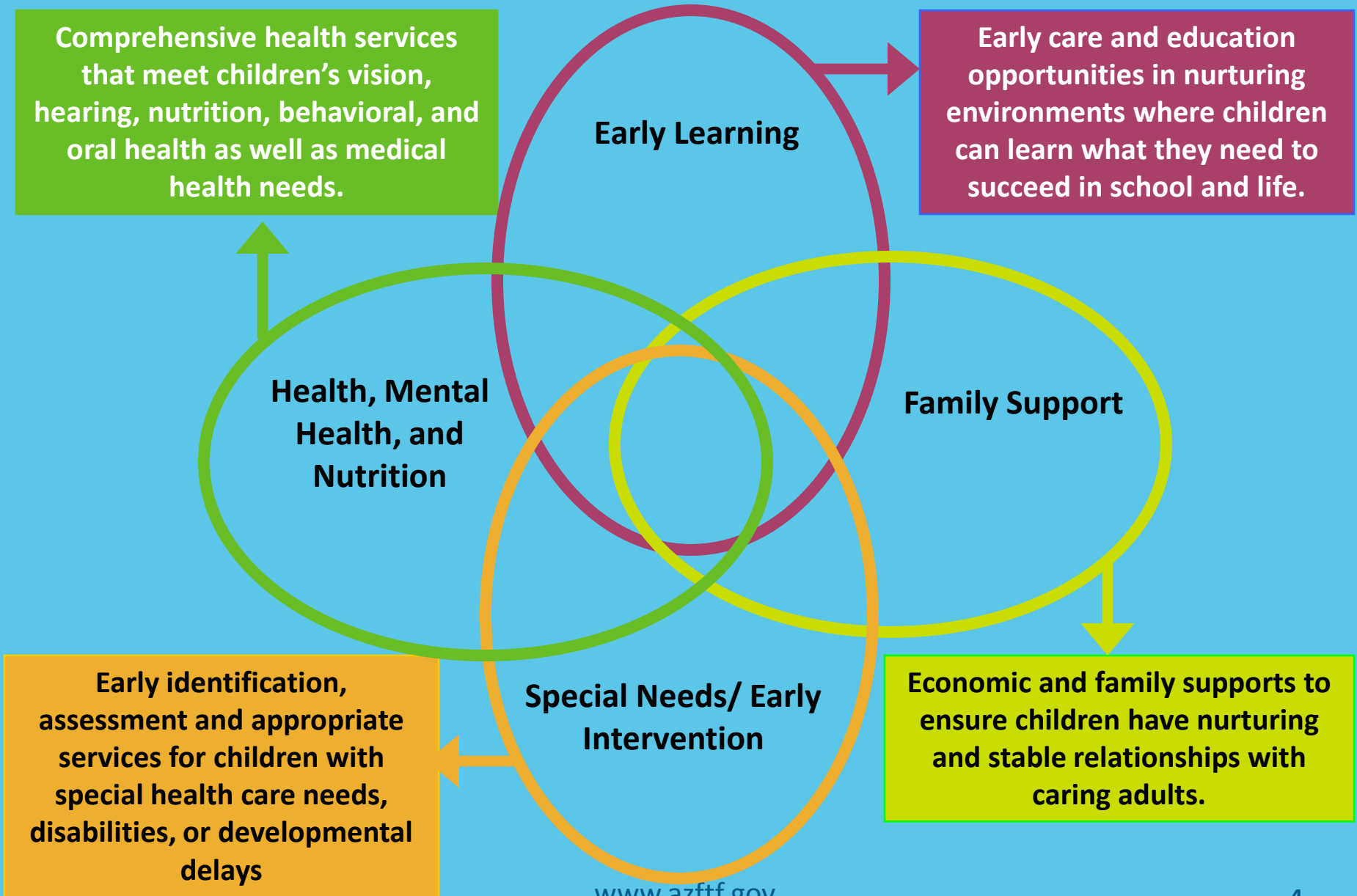


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Examine individual areas of the early childhood development and health system:

1. What do we want for children and families?
2. What are the components of comprehensive system quality in each area?
3. What is already being addressed?
4. Where are the inadequacies?
5. What are the priorities and how will we address them?


Early Childhood System



Early Childhood System

Every Child Deserves:

**Comprehensive health services
that meet children's vision,
hearing, nutrition, behavioral, and
oral health as well as medical
health needs.**



**Health, Mental
Health, and
Nutrition**

Early Childhood System

Every Child Deserves:

**Early identification,
assessment and appropriate
services for children with
special health care needs,
disabilities, or developmental
delays**



**Special Needs/ Early
Intervention**

Pathway for Early Childhood Health



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- ***Child health is a state of physical, mental, intellectual, social and emotional well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Healthy children live in families, environments, and communities that provide them with the opportunity to reach their fullest developmental potential.***

Child Health Advisory Group

Pathway for Early Childhood Health



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- Children cannot achieve optimal health alone. They are dependent upon adults in their family and community to provide them with an environment in which they can learn and grow successfully. The process of meeting the health goals for the child include:
 - A trusting relationship between the health professional and the family,
 - promotion of health and well-being
 - education,
 - disease prevention, and
 - early detection.



Components of Early Childhood Health

Maternal and Newborn Care

- Newborn screening and follow-up

Well Child and Dental Care

- Begin at birth
- Regular visits
- Standardized screening tool at 9, 18, 24 (or 30) months
- Referral if appropriate

Developmental and Medical Interventions

- Early intervention programs
- Specialty care providers
- Therapy services

Comprehensive Health Services with Identification of Special Needs/ Early Intervention

Access to Health Care

- Health insurance (families)
- Medical and Dental Home
- Qualified health care provider

Parenting Information and Awareness

- Accessible information and resources
- Partnership between family and health provider

Coordination of Programs and Services

- Eligibility requirements
- Application process
- Referrals to specialty programs and programs
- Coordination of care

What is Already Adequately Addressed?

Maternal and Newborn Care

- Newborn screening and follow-up

Well Child and Dental Care

- Begin at birth
- Regular visits
- Standardized screening tool at 9, 18, 24 (or 30) months
- Referral if appropriate

Developmental and Medical Interventions

- Early intervention programs
- Specialty care providers
- Therapy services

Comprehensive Health Services with Identification of Special Needs/ Early Intervention

Access to Health Care

- Health insurance (families)
- Medical and Dental Home
- Qualified and available health care provider

Parenting Information and Awareness

- Accessible information and resources
- Partnership between family and health provider

Coordination of Programs and Services

- Eligibility requirements
- Application process
- Referrals to specialty programs and programs
- Coordination of care

Where are the Inadequacies?



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- Lack of health insurance coverage is a major barrier for some families and children
- Lack of health care providers (especially dental care providers) in rural communities
- Fewer physician practices using a medical home model to facilitate care coordination
- Shortage of speech/language, occupational, physical and mental health therapists to provide intervention services for children birth to five with developmental delays and supports to their families

Where are the Inadequacies?



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- Insufficient number of developmental pediatricians and in some areas no pediatricians or family practice physicians provide care to children
- Coordination of care across health provider and payment systems do not meet expectations
- Screening and surveillance for developmental delay using a standardized screening tool is not universal
- Parents lack information and understanding of the health care system



Next Steps in February 2009

- Prioritize health policy strategies
- Vet through Health Advisory Group
- Determine timeline and costs for implementation
- Identify recommended infrastructure strategies for State Grant funding
- Prepare recommendations for presentation and discussion at Board Meeting

